

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 SS-15 PA-02 SSO-00 ISO-00 /033 R

DRAFTED BY IATF: LDBROWN:LMB:SBA

APPROVED BY IATF: LDBROWN

S/S-O:RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID PRYOR

GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS

LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

DOD IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

CAMP CHAFFEE ARKANSAS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT:

RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN THE UNITED STATES

DEAR GOVERNOR PRYOR: FROM ALL I HAVE HEARD, THE RECEPTION OF THE FIRST VIETNAMESE REFUGEES EARLIER TODAY AT CAMP CHAFFEE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. YOUR ROLE IN THE WELCOMING CEREMONIES IS MUCH APPRECIATED. IN THIS CABLE, WHICH I AM SENDING TO THE OTHER GOVERNORS, I WILL TRY TO GIVE YOU THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE REFUGEE PROGRAM.

1. AS A RESULT OF THE TRAGEDY IN VIETNAM THE PRESIDENT HAS AUTHORIZED THE ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES OF UP TO 130,000 VIETNAMESE CITIZENS. THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE ARE RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS. THE OTHERS, AS MANY AS 50,000 ARE THOSE WE CALL HIGH RISK, MEANING THEIR LIVES WOULD BE IN DANGER IF THEY HAD REMAINED IN VIETNAM.

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2. IN THIS CABLE I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A PICTURE OF WHAT WE ARE DOING TO MAKE THE RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE AS HUMANE AND DECENT AS POSSIBLE AND TO AVOID HARDSHIP TO COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY WILL LIVE. IT IS A TASK IN WHICH I HOPE ALL AMERICANS WILL PARTICIPATE.

3. WE CURRENTLY ESTIMATE THAT OVER 100,000 VIETNAMESE HAVE LEFT THEIR COUNTRY TO DATE THROUGH THE AMERICAN AIR AND SEALIFT AND BY THEIR OWN MEANS. NOW THAT WE HAVE BEGUN MOVEMENTS TO RECEPTION CENTERS, WE EXPECT 5,000 A DAY TO ARRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES AT DESIGNATED RECEPTION CENTERS.

4. WE HAVE TWO PROBLEMS: (A) REUNITING VIETNAMESE WITH THEIR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND SPONSORS; (B) FINDING PERMANENT HOMES FOR THE HIGH RISK VIETNAMESE (ESTIMATED 50,000). WE BELIEVE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT WILL BE MINIMAL. THOSE AMERICANS WITH VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS ARE WIDELY DISPERSED. FOR THOSE COMING WITHOUT SPONSORS, OUR POLICY IS TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY EQUITABLY AMONG ALL REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE VIETNAMESE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES ARE PREDOMINANTLY A SKILLED GROUP; MANY HAVE ENGLISH CAPABILITY.

5. RESETTLEMENT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN MOST EFFECTIVE IN SETTLING REFUGEES FROM ABROAD -- HUNGARIANS AND UGANDAN ASIANS. IN ADDITION THESE AGENCIES IDENTIFY SPONSORS WHO PROVIDE HOUSING, JOBS, COUNSELING AND EDUCATION. MANY AGENCIES REPORT CHARGES WILL NOT BECOME FINANCIAL BURDENS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES BELIEVE ALL REFUGEES WE ARE PRESENTLY PLANNING FOR CAN BE EXPEDITIOUSLY RESETTLED. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL AVOID RESETTLEMENT IN ECONOMICALLY HARD-HIT AREAS AND WILL NOT CONCENTRATE THE REFUGEES IN SPECIFIC LOCALITIES. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ENGAGED IN RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE  
MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES  
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1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, B.C.

AMERICAN FUND FOR CZECHOSLOVAK REFUGEES  
1709 BROADWAY, ROOM 1316  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE PROGRAM  
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027

LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICE  
315 PARK AVENUE SOUTH  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010

UNITED HIAS SERVICE, INC;  
200 PARK AVENUE SOUTH  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003

TOLSTOY FOUNDATION, INC.  
250 WEST 57TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE  
386 PARK AVENUE SOUTH  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR NATIONALITIES SERVICE  
20 WEST 40TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

TRAVELERS AID-INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES  
345 EAST 46TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS IN MONEY OR OFFERS OF RESETTLEMENT  
SHOULD BE REFERRED DIRECTLY TO THE AGENCIES CONCERNED.

6. WE HAVE STRONG INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT IN RESETTLEMENT  
AND JOB IDENTIFICATION FROM OTHER GROUPS INCLUDING THE  
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AFL-CIO. WE HAVE BEEN DELUGED WITH OFFERS OF PRIVATE  
ASSISTANCE.

7. STRENUOUS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY. FRANCE,  
CANADA AND AUSTRALIA HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL TAKE  
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. THERE ARE LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS  
AND COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICA INTERESTED.

8. TO FACILITATE THE HEALTH AND IMMIGRATION ENTRY INTO  
THE U.S., WE HAVE SET UP OUR STAGING AREAS IN GUAM AND  
WAKE. OUR HEALTH VERIFICATION SYSTEM IS RIGOROUS. THE  
ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TOGETHER WITH HEW (PUBLIC HEALTH  
SERVICE -- CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL PHYSICIANS AND OTHER  
HEALTH PERSONNEL) ARE STRONGLY REPRESENTED ON GUAM. THE  
REFUGEES ARE IN GOOD HEALTH AND POSE NO MORE OF A PROBLEM

TO THE HEALTH OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THAN THOUSANDS OF OTHER TRAVELERS WHO ENTER THIS COUNTRY ANNUALLY FROM SOUTH-EAST ASIA. (OF 29,000 REFUGEES ON APRIL 30 IN GUAM, ONLY ABOUT 80 HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED DUE TO SUCH CONDITIONS AS MEASLES, MILD DIARRHEA, MATERNITY AND PNEUMONIA BUT NO SERIOUS DISEASE OR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE.) AT THIS TIME, THERE ARE NO UNUSUAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PRESENT AND WE ARE MAINTAINING EXPERT (CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL) SURVEILLANCE. THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF THE REFUGEES IS SUR-

PRISINGLY GOOD. FURTHER HEALTH AND CURATIVE TREATMENT AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES WILL TAKE PLACE IN RECEPTION CENTERS. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES WILL BE ALERTED FOR ANY APPROPRIATE FOLLOW ON, SHOULD INDIVIDUAL CASES REQUIRE IT.

9. STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL SUFFER NO DIRECT FISCAL HARDSHIP AND LITTLE INDIRECT HARDSHIP FROM THE INFLUX. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING FROM THE CONGRESS ON AN URGENT BASIS TO PROVIDE: RESETTLEMENT, HEALTH, INCOME MAINTENANCE, AND SOCIAL SERVICE FUNDS TO REIMBURSE 100 OF THE COSTS INCURRED FOR THESE SERVICES. BACK-UP FEDERAL FUNDING AUTHORITY EXISTS FOR ANY RESIDUAL PROBLEMS WHICH INDIVIDUAL CASES MAY PRESENT. HEW IS ALSO PREPARED TO PROVIDE FULL ASSISTANCE FOR DESTITUTE REPATRIATES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AS SOON AS CONGRESS MAKES FUNDS AVAILABLE. ALSO ADDITION-  
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AL MONEYS FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCY RESETTLEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT AND RECEPTION CENTER COSTS.

10. THREE RECEPTION CENTERS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE THOSE ARRIVING -- CAMP PENDLETON (CALIFORNIA), CAMP CHAFFEE (ARKANSAS), EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE (FLORIDA). WE AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ANTICIPATE BEING ABLE TO PROCESS THOSE ARRIVING QUICKLY. SCREENING AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WHOSE SPONSORS ARE READY TO RECEIVE THEM SHOULD TAKE LESS THAN A WEEK. OTHER FAMILIES SHOULD BE ON THEIR WAY TO NEW HOMES AND JOBS WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, MANY OF THEM IN A FEW WEEK.

L.DEAN BROWN  
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AGENCY  
TASK FORCE FOR THE PRESIDENT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SREF  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE103823  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LDBROWN:LMB:SBA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750582/aaaacxav.tel  
**Line Count:** 219  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN ITF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** n/a  
**To:** THE HONORABLE DAVID PRYOR GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS DOD JCS CAMP CHAFFEE ARKANSAS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006